in the areas of navigation, guidance and control, hypersonic aerothermodynamics, thermal protection systems, deceleration and floatation systems which are of relevance for future launch vehicle missions including manned missions. It also provided opportunity of conducting experiments in microgravity conditions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Launching of Geostationary Weather Satellites

2694. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO is planning to launch Geostationary weather satellites;

(b) if so, the number of weather satellites it would launch with name and time-frame when they would be launched;

(c) whether these satellites would improve weather forecast and keep track of cyclones and monsoon;

(d) whether the satellite carry sensors with them;

(e) if so, whether all information would be tracked by these sensors and passed on to the earth station; and

(f) the amount of outlay which is earmarked for the said project and whether the satellites would be built indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on date ISRO has two satellites carrying meteorological payload namely INSAT-3A and KALPANA operating in orbit. ISRO is building a meteorological satellite INSAT-3D with advanced meteorological payload that is expected to be launched in 2008.

(c) Yes, Sir. The data from this satellite will aid in improved modelling of weather phenomena.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The outlay for the INSAT-3D satellite is about Rs. 200 crores. The satellite is being built indigenously.